FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 7, 2014

Agenda Item: 2014 - 2015 Bison Hunter Requirements and Roster Use

Division: Wildlife Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

Bison hunting season structure was addressed during biennial season setting in February. Two additional modifications are proposed out of experience and conversations with Tribal partners. The first is to require successful hunters to disperse gut piles and other carcass parts. Dispersal of unutilized bison parts is needed to address public concern over those materials next to high use roadways and homes. Dispersal would mitigate concentration of scavengers (eagles, crows, ravens magpies, coyotes, wolves, and bears). See proposed language below.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR DISPERSING GUT PILES

Hunters who harvest a bison shall, upon field dressing the carcass, cut open the rumen and remove and spread its vegetative contents.

Hunters who harvest a bison near a roadway or any other facility shall remove all unutilized parts of the carcass (entrails, tissues, bones, hides, fetuses, legs, etc.) to an area at least 200 yards from any roadway, dwelling, campground, designated trail or trailhead. These unutilized parts shall be placed in a manner as to be inconspicuous to passersby.

The second proposed change is to adjust the "cow/calf" roster to be the "bison" roster. With this adjustment would come expanded flexibility for FWP to draw upon hunters from this list for potential harvest of *any bison* (to include bulls) if prescribed by FWP.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The comment period ran through 5 p.m., Monday, July 7 with comments forwarded to the Commission. Eleven comments were received with opposition a consistent theme in many.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2013 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justification.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends adopting the 2014 - 2015 bison hunter requirements and roster use as proposed. While a there is expressed public opposition, the small number of comments suggests some level of tolerance as well. Also, these requirements have been requested of Tribal partners.

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission adopt the final 2014 - 2015 Bison Hunter Requirements and Roster Use as presented by FWP.